



## MUIR REPORT:

# Ganjasaurus & the Bay of Orangutans

**420 at Golden Gate park**, over 30,000 people showed up to celebrate the first legal lighting up of marijuana - which swelled the crowds. The usual cast of suspects were in attendance, 70 year old "ganjasauras" with gray pony tails, ancient women in flowery dresses, young men and women scantily dressed and higher than kites. Like all city functions, most of the people we're from out of town and former residents of S.F. when rents were cheaper and characters abounded. It was a good mixture of ages and lifestyles, all with one thing in common, a love of the herb. The police, in their usual capacity of buzz killers, tried to inflict their evil banality by harassing people, who were playing their music too loud and littering. After all was said and done, there were 7 misdemeanor arrests for public intoxication, no fights, no problems. The sight of a huge smoke cloud descending upon the city by 4:30 was enough to make it all worthwhile and raises the question, "Why can't we do this every day"?

In the meantime, the fight for **Peoples' Park** in Berkeley continues, with the University planning to house 1,000 students on the hallowed ground. Mark

Benioff, founder of "Salesforce", vowed to give 30 million dollars to study the homelessness problem. It might be easier for him to go to **Peoples' Park** for the answer and spend his ill gotten gains on housing. How many people could be sheltered with that kind of money?

**The coup that went cuckoo:** another Orwellian phase? "**We were going to overthrow a duly elected president and appoint someone to the position to preserve democracy.**" The coup consisted of a few dozen people waving flags in public parks while setting off fireworks. Reagan said the five words all Americans should fear to hear from the government. "**We're here to help you!**" We can now extend that to foreign policy. John Bolton bristled about, with his waxed mustache and a scowl on his face, assuring the pretenders to the presidential throne that the USA was behind them all the way. To use a playground metaphor, threatening smaller children until one of the abused

kids, grabbed Bolton, put him in a headlock, and started giving him some knuckle scrapes across his head. So much for the Monroe Doctrine. May we call this failed coup, the bay of orangutans? .

**If it wasn't enough** that bigoted people worry about their doctor or lawyer, a woman or a person of color, being unqualified to practice due to affirmative action. Now they have to worry if our practitioners' parents bribed their children's way into school. Do we have to means test our professionals now?

**Is it any wonder** there are so many maniacs on the road. While driving today, I was cut off by a *Chrysler Avenger* who was racing a *Dodge Viper*, being followed by a *Ford Cobra* and a *Police Interceptor*. Then a *Challenger* ran into my bumper after being hit by a *Crossfire*, which was rear-ended by a *Barracuda* and a *Plymouth Fury*. All of us had to be towed by a *Big Horn* truck as a *Chevy Blazer* drove slowly by. Would it make more sense to name cars the *Ford Gentleman* or the *Chevy Lady*, or the *Hugo First* and restore a bit of civility to the roadways?

**MuirWalker**



## THE PLANETARY PETRI DISH & THE GREAT CAPITALIST EXPERIMENT

*Then God way up in heaven, for whatever it was worth,  
Thought He'd have a big old party, thought He'd call it planet Earth.  
Don't worry about tomorrow, Lord, you'll know it when it comes,  
When the rock and roll music meets the risin' sun.  
--One More Saturday Night- Bob Weir*

**During the annual migration** of the gray whale up the west coast, 7 whales have washed up on the shores of the San Francisco Bay. Their bellies were empty and their blubber mostly depleted. These 7 are included in the count of 23 bodies washing up on the Pacific shoreline in the last 5 months. Some reports state, "There are too many whales." Maybe there are too many people?

**Killing Dungeness Crab to save them** or "thinning the forest for its health" are creating evolutionary pressure by "unnatural selection." In the laboratory, biologists apply evolutionary pressure in a controlled environment. Cells in a petri dish are infected with bacteria. Then the plate is flooded with an antibiotic. The bacteria that are resistant grow out through this man-made environment. This is a technique for identifying and isolating various genes to determine their function. In basic research, it has been invaluable in providing science with information on how biological systems work.

**Moving from the petri dish** to the planet, corporations inadvertently put pressure on the entire biome to isolate the "resistant population," but instead of this being a petri dish of an attenuated strain of one bacteria, we're playing this out in a vast web of life, *OUR* web of life. In this planetary petri dish, the most susceptible are bees, polar bears, whales, and monarch butterflies...the difference that wasn't considered in this great capitalist experiment was that this is not a petri dish, but an organism with interconnectivity and dependencies scientists haven't even begun to understand.

**We are now** in the midst of the sixth great extinction and we're the cause. We have started this "great experiment" with no consideration of the possible consequences. What is the purpose of this experiment? It is specifically to "make money" out of the planet. We're taking out a home equity loan on our planet and selling off the ground under it. We drill holes in the floor boards to look for oil and minerals. We burn the rotting death of the previous great extinction to create the next one by taking that death from its resting place, burn it, and spew its inherent nature. The ones that survive will be the unnaturally selected few. This experiment makes a handful of people very comfortable...for now.

**Human fear** manifests itself with hoarding. There are a small number of men who have control over much of this process I've described here. They are doing it for one reason: to hoard money, the goal of capitalism. There are television shows dedicated to showing the irrationality of "hoarders." Typically, they're poor people who cannot throw anything away - houses filled with newspapers, garbage and animal carcasses. This is no different than the hoarders of money, except the money hoarders' activities are affecting us all. This is the foundation of our current culture. The culture of capital will go down in history as one of the bleakest in all time.

**The top of society** has now developed the technology to go on a bender like no other. The bender is also known as **Anthropocene** era. We throw people out on the streets, commodifying their most basic needs for shelter, clean air, water and food so the ones who have wrested control over these needs can make money.

**The few with the money** have complete control to drill holes in the bottom of the oceans, releasing toxins buried by the planet. We burn these toxins, release them in the air. The United Nations released a 1500-page summary report (May 6, 2019) of a compilation of thousands of scientific studies on the impact of civilization on natural landscapes. The conclusions paint a bleak picture: over 1 million species are facing extinction mostly due to ecosystem-altering human activity. A report earlier this month concluded that all saltwater fish will be extinct by 2048.

**The planet at this point** resembles the scene the morning after a huge party. Mom and dad went out of town and the kids invited the entire high school to break into the liquor cabinet. Garbage is strewn everywhere, people unconscious laying around in their own vomit, broken windows and doors, empty pizza boxes and beer bottles. A young girl splayed across the master bed, half naked and passed out drunk, has been raped multiple times.

**We rode this capitalist party through the night** and the morning light has come. Look around you, it's our planetary hangover. It looks almost impossible to clean up this mess. And frankly, some of it will never be replaced. The polar bear, like that valuable vase broken in two, will never come back. But, we might be able to salvage the vomit covered rug or clean up the beer cans in the swimming pool. We just have to push past the paralysis of this overwhelming mess, take two aspirin, look for other survivors and start to clean up. We can't continue the bender while trying to clean up this mess. We must stop the drinking, as we must stop the burning of fossil fuels, as we must stop valuing money over all.

**Lisa Argento Martell**

